STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
714/744 P STREET
O. BOX 942732
CRAMENTO, CA 94234-7320

June 15, 1990
Letter No.:90-56

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers

SUBJECT: CASH-BASED MEDI-CAL FOR CHILDREN OF MINOR PARENTS IN FOSTER CARE (SB 510 - INFANT SUPPLEMENT)

The purpose of this letter is to address county concerns regarding cash-based Medi-Cal for children of minor parents who are in foster care.

The enclosed Department of Social Services (DSS) All County Letter (ACL) No. 89-15 dated February 8, 1989 discusses the changes made in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)-Foster Care program as a result of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1987. OBRA requires the aid payment for a minor parent who receives AFDC-Foster Care to also include an amount for the care of the minor parent's child living with the parent in placement. OBRA also prohibits AFDC-Family Group payments for children who live with parents who are AFDC-Foster Care recipients. SB 510 (Chapter 1066, Statutes of 1988) makes the required State law changes necessary to implement this OBRA provision in California. Emergency regulations, as allowed by SB 510, established a beginning date of March 1, 1989.

This ACL contains a section titled Medi-Cal Eligibility on page 3. This section is correct and is repeated below:

"A minor parent's child for whom an infant supplement is being paid is also eligible for Medi-Cal benefits. There is no separate Medi-Cal application or eligibility determination needed on the minor parent's child. Using the minor parent's aid code and case number, the CWDs are to apply their individual county process to request the inclusion of the additional person within an otherwise eligible Medi-Cal case."

This section correctly states that the minor parent's child does not need a separate application or eligibility determination. It specifies that the minor parent's child will have the same case number and aid code as the minor parent. We are clarifying that the county should include the minor parent and the minor parent's child together in one case and the aid code would either be 40 (AFDC-Foster Care /non federal) or 42 (AFDC- Foster Care /federal). CWDs should follow their normal procedures for adding a person into an otherwise eligible Medi-Cal case.

Some counties reported that this procedure is incompatible with their computer systems. Those counties were advised that, if they did not have

the capability to include a minor parent's child in the minor parent's case, they should use aid code 34 (AFDC- Medically Needy) or aid code 82 (Medically Indigent-Children- Under 21-No Share of Cost) if no deprivation exists. This procedure results in double case counts and, therefore, must stop. Most counties have been able to resolve this difficulty. Those counties which have not yet implemented these procedures must do so by December 1, 1990.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Sue Jackson at (916) 322-5298.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosure

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Program Consultants

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

ENCLOSURE

February 8, 1989

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 89-15

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY AUDITORS
ALL COUNTY PROGRAM FISCAL OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY PROGRAM COORDINATORS
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES OFFICES

SUBJECT: SENATE BILL (SB) 510 INFANT SUPPLEMENT

This letter is to provide the program and fiscal claiming instructions necessary to implement Senate Bill (SB) 510 (Chapter 1066, Statutes of 1988).

As you are aware, All-County Letter (ACL) 88-153 dated December 2, 1988 informed County Welfare Departments (CWDs) of a Federal law change affecting the Title IV-E Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) - Foster Care Program. The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1987 amended sections of the Social Security Act requiring the aid payment for a minor parent who receives AFDC-Foster Care to also include an amount for the care of the minor parent's child living with the parent in placement. The OBRA also prohibits AFDC-Family Group Program payments for children who live with parents who are AFDC-Foster Care recipients.

SB 510 provides the required State law changes necessary to implement the OBRA provisions in California. The Bill provides the statutory authority for the supplemental payment to be added to the current AFDC-Foster Care rate for the minor parent. The Bill further removes the current AFDC-Family Group eligibility to the child of minor parents receiving AFDC-Foster Care.

The Department is in the process of filing emergency regulations (#1288-59) as allowed under the emergency provision contained in SB 510. The regulations reflect the necessary program changes and schedules the AFDC-Foster Care supplemental payment for the child to begin on March 1, 1989. It also removes the AFDC-Family Group eligibility for the child as of February 28, 1989.

Listed below are the program and fiscal areas impacted by SB 510. Each section outlines the mandated changes and provides implementation instructions.

The eligibility for the infant supplement is based on the minor parent's AFDC-Foster Care eligibility determination, per Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) Section 45-200.1. There is no separate eligibility determination needed on the minor parent's child. The child of the minor parent is not considered to be in out-of-home placement, although the cost of care is funded by the AFDC-Foster Care Program. Therefore, the minor parent's child is not to be included in any foster care persons count.

The standard NOA and "Timely Notice" procedures that are currently used by CWDs to inform foster care providers of any increase in the foster care payment level are to be used for the purpose of informing providers of the infant supplement.

Medi-Cal Eligibility

A minor parent's child for whom an infant supplement is being paid is also eligible for Medi-Cal benefits. There is no separate Medi-Cal application or eligibility determination needed on the minor parent's child. Using the minor parent's aid code and case number, the CWDs are to apply their individual county process to request the inclusion of an additional person within an otherwise eligible Medi-Cal case.

Child Welfare Services

The minor parent's assessment and subsequent reassessments for child welfare services should identify any special needs of the minor parent with regard to his/her role as a parent. There is no authority or requirement to develop a separate assessment and service plan for the minor parent's child unless the child is also a dependent or there is a voluntary services agreement.

Out-Of-County Placements

It is necessary to locate and identify minor parents who are placed out-of-county with their child where AFDC-FC payments are made by the sending County and the child is currently receiving AFDC benefits from the County where the minor parent is placed. In these instances, sending County and County of placement must work together to ensure AFDC-FG/U benefits to the child are terminated February 28, 1989 by the County of placement, and the sending County increases the AFDC-FC payment effective March 1, 1989. ACL 88-153 recommended that flyers be used to have providers alert their services workers if they had minor parents with children in their facilities. This procedure would result in the sending County being informed by the provider. The sending County must inform the County of placement of these cases in order to have the AFDC-FG/U terminated. To expedite this notification process, it is this Department's recommendation that CWDs designate a staff person

Only one person count and one case count is to be claimed for these cases. The supplemental payments are to be totaled with all other AFDC-FC payments and carried forward to the appropriate CA 800, Summary Report of Assistance Expenditures. Federal supplemental payments will be claimed on the CA 800 FC (FED) and Nonfederal supplemental payments will be claimed on the CA 800A FC (NONFED).

SB 510 does not create new staffing activities or substantially increase existing workload. Therefore, the Counties' existing allocations are not impacted.

Foster Care Information System

The children of minor parents are not considered for audit purposes to be in out-of-home placement, even though the costs of care is to be funded by the AFDC-Foster Care program. As a result, the minor parent's child is not to be included within any foster care persons count.

Child Support Requirements

Civil Code Section 208.5 states that senior parents are not financially responsible for the care of grandchildren. Therefore, the CWDs shall refer to the District Attorney all forms and information as required in MPP Section 45-201.3 for both the minor parent and the minor parent's child. A Family Support Division (FSD) ACL will be forthcoming to provide the specific child/spousal support collection/distribution reporting instructions.

If you have any questions concerning the infant supplement or foster care eligibility, please contact your Foster Care Program analyst at (916) 445-0813. Questions concerning other AFDC benefits should be directed to your AFDC Policy analyst at (916) 322-5475. Fiscal claiming instructions should be directed to Fiscal Policy and Procedures Bureau at (916) 445-7046. Questions concerning child welfare services should be directed to your Adult and Family Services Operations consultant at (916) 445-0623. Child/Spousal Support Program related questions should be directed to Nancy Alder, Child Support Management Bureau, at (916) 445-9453.

ROBERT A. HOREL
Deputy Director
Welfare Program Division

Attachment

cc: CWDA

State of California
Department of Social Services

Manual Msg. No.: M44-206t
Action : Disc.
Reason: Ineligible Child
Title: Minor Mother With No Eligible Child
Form No. : NA 290
Effective Date : 03/01/89
Revision Date :

Auto ID No. :
Flow Chart No. :
Source : SB 510
Regulation Cite: M44-206.1, W&I Code 10554

MESSAGE: As of February 28, 1989, the County is stopping your cash aid.

Here's why:

A change in State law says the AFDC-FG (Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Family Group) for your child(ren) will stop. Starting March 1989, your foster care provider will get more money to meet your child(ren)'s needs.

INSTRUCTIONS: Use to discontinue AFDC-FG for a child(ren) living with a Foster Care minor parent. This is required by a change in State Law which makes the minor parent's child(ren) ineligible for AFDC-FG. The child(ren)'s needs will now be met by the foster care provider who will get a supplemental payment for the child(ren).

This is a temporary NOA message.